Excerpts from Secretary of Defense McNamara's speech of March 2, 1966:

.... how was it possible to carry through such a major military operation without invoking the usual emergency measures.

The answer is that during the last five years we have greatly strengthened our military establishment for precisely this kind of a contingency. ...

....

And, at the same time we were increasing our non-nuclear forces, we also increased our nuclear forces. For example, the number of nuclear warheads in our strategic alert forces will have been increased from 836 in June 1961 to about 2600 in June 1966 and the total megatonnage of these weapons more than tripled. Moreover, by June 30, 1966, we will have doubled the number of tactical nuclear warheads on the soil of Western Europe, and large numbers of tactical nuclear weapons are available for use in other areas of the world, if required.